Describing and analysing a cartoon

Englisch · Klasse 11 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

kostenlos, mit Lösungen

Cartoon (described, for practice): A classroom. A teacher stands at the board on which is written „Critical thinking". All twenty students look at their phones; above every head a speech bubble shows the same thumbs-up icon. One student in the back row has raised her hand. Caption: „Miss, can we just google what to think?"

1 Description: Write four to five sentences in the present tense.

The cartoon shows _____ In the foreground / background _____ The caption reads …

a) Setting, people, what they do, text in the picture, caption. From general to detail.
e.g. The cartoon shows a classroom with about twenty students and a teacher. On the board behind the teacher the words „Critical thinking" are written. All the students are looking at their phones, and above each head there is a speech bubble with the same thumbs-up icon. In the back row a girl has raised her hand. The caption reads: „Miss, can we just google what to think?"

2 Analysis: Answer in one or two sentences each.

Look for contrast, exaggeration, symbols and the gap between words and picture.

a) What is the contrast between the board and the students' behaviour?
The board demands independent thinking, but the students all react in the same way and don't look up — the opposite of critical thinking.

b) What do the identical thumbs-up bubbles stand for?
Uniform, unreflected approval — everyone „likes" the same thing instead of forming an opinion.

c) Why does the cartoonist choose a classroom as the setting?
School is where thinking is supposed to be taught; the cartoon shows the lesson failing.

d) What is ironic about the caption?
The student asks for permission to outsource thinking itself — she treats „what to think" like a fact you can look up.

3 Message: Formulate the cartoonist's message in one sentence and name the target of the criticism.

The cartoonist criticises _____ / warns that _____ / suggests that …

a) Message:
The cartoonist warns that constant use of social media makes young people passive and uniform in their thinking, so that even school can no longer teach them to think for themselves.

b) Target:
Target: young people's dependence on phones and social media — and possibly schools that fail to react.

4 Evaluation: Do you agree with the message? Write five to six sentences with one argument for and one against.

While I agree that _____, the cartoon ignores …

a) Refer to your own experience with social media and school.
Own text. Check: clear position, one argument for (e.g. group pressure through likes), one against (e.g. the exaggeration — many students do discuss and disagree online), reference to own experience.